

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
OF THE  
Urban District Council  
OF  
HEBDEN BRIDGE,  
BY  
**J. LAWSON, M.B.,**  
UNIV., DUB.

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*Presented March, 1899.*

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Hebden Bridge :

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HEBDEN BRIDGE  
**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

Medical Officer's Report.

HEBDEN BRIDGE, 15th March, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,---

I have the honour to lay before you my Report for the Year 1898, my **Twenty-first Annual One**, on the sanitary condition and general health of Hebden Bridge.

I calculate **The Population** to the middle of the year 1898 to be 8,350, an increase of 350 on that of the previous year.

**The Births Registered** have been 186, 88 of whom were males and 98 were females, giving an annual birth-rate of 22·2 per 1000 ; eight of these were illegitimate. The number of births and rate for the year 1897 were respectively 159 and 19·8 per 1000. Our average birth-rate for the last five years has been 21·5 per 1000. Our average birth-rate for the preceding five years, 1889 to 1893, was 27·5 per 1000.

**The Deaths Recorded** have been 100, viz., 48 males and 52 females, one of which only is uncertified ; yielding an annual death-rate of 11·9 per 1000. The number of deaths and rate for the year 1897 were respectively 98 and 12·2 per 1000. Our average death-rate for the last five years has been 13·2 per 1000, and for the previous five years 16 per 1000. The distribution of these 100 deaths, according to ages, is as follows :—Twenty-two died in infancy, that is, under the age of twelve months. This

infant mortality, measured by the proportion of deaths under one year to births registered, is equal to 118·2 per 1000. The proportion of deaths among this class for the year 1897, to every 1000 births registered, is equal to 113·2 per 1000. Of these twenty-two infants who died under one year, five were prematurely born. Five deaths were between one and five years; seven were between five and fifteen years; four were between fifteen and twenty-five years; thirty-three between twenty-five and sixty years, and twenty-nine were sixty years and upwards. One violent death occurred from a fall and was investigated by a coroner's jury. As to the causes of the various deaths, it appears that six arose from Phthisis, twenty-six from inflammatory lung diseases, and eight from heart diseases: none of which vary much from year to year. We have had only four deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases, viz., one from Continued Fever, two from Typhoid Fever and one from Diphtheria, with a zymotic death-rate so low as 0·4 per 1000. Another death from Typhoid Fever occurred at the Hospital, and was registered in the Todmorden district, and which rightly belongs to us.

The vital statistics for the year 1898 are, on the whole, favourable. They comprise a birth-rate of 22·2 per 1000, higher than the two previous years; a death-rate of 11·9 per 1000, the lowest ever recorded for the district; a low infantile mortality (118·2 per 1000), three only being lower in the last ten years; and a zymotic death-rate of 0·4 per 1000, the lowest but one in the last decade.

**The Infectious Diseases** prevalent in Hebden Bridge during the year 1898 were largely in excess of those for 1897. Forty-four cases were reported to me under the "Notification Act," as compared with twenty-six for the preceding year. Although these diseases have unfortunately been more numerous, I am pleased to add that they have a lower general mortality than the same class in 1897, as indicated by the zymotic death-rate of 0·4 per 1000. They are as follows: Continued Fever 1, Typhoid Fever 8, Diphtheria 4, Erysipelas 7 and Scarlet Fever 24.

**Continued and Typhoid Fevers.**—Six of these were sent to Hospital, of whom one died; the remaining three were treated in Hebden Bridge, all of whom died. This mortality is heavy—four dying out of nine. The advantages of recovery



appear strongly in favour of those removed to Hospital, and against the treatment of any cases at home. With regard to the causes producing this Fever, it still remains a question of surmise. Two patients undoubtedly came to Hebden Bridge with the illness contracted in another neighbourhood. One probably received the infection directly from a member afflicted in her own family. In two of the remaining cases, small sanitary defects were discovered which were immediately rectified. In three other instances private water supplies were in use, and not the Corporation water—which is above suspicion. No positive cause can be assigned for any. All future cases should be sent to Hospital; and where Typhoid Fever is notified in any house, the drains should be thoroughly overhauled. If a Typhoid patient refuses to go to Hospital, great danger remains to the family and those residing near; and too much care cannot be observed in the removal and disposal of the excreta.

**Scarlet Fever** commenced in Foster Lane at the end of March and continued more or less throughout the year, principally in this locality and that of Stubbings. Twenty-four notifications were received. Nineteen patients were sent to Hospital. The first two cases occurring were not removed to Lee Bottom, and the disease may have spread from these. The Fever was mild in type and all recovered. There has been only one death from Scarlet Fever in the Council's district for three years, although we had thirty and seven cases notified respectively in the years 1896 and 1897. Two children took the disease in separate houses, after the return from Hospital of near relatives.

**Diphtheria** occurred in four instances, in different portions of the town. One death took place at Foster Holme. This malady is a highly infectious one, and it is advisable that any future cases should be sent away. I understand that accommodation is available at the Fielden Hospital for their treatment.

**Influenza** has been prevalent for a good part of the year. Five deaths are attributed to this unhappy disorder, which we do not seem able to cast off. It has been present with us each quarter, and although the acute stages are not so dangerous as when it first appeared amongst us, still the nervous break-down, and the general debility which follows, leave very serious effects on the general community.

Steady progress in **Sanitary Matters** has been maintained through 1898. Considerable advance has been made in the Sewerage Works at Redacre and in the laying of the new Sewers through Hebden Bridge, besides the paving of three additional streets.

I have inspected the eleven **Bake-houses**, and found all of them generally kept in good order. All are lime-washed twice, and some of them three or four times, a year.

The five registered **Lodging-houses** have also received my attention. Three of them have been well looked after and kept clean. The other two, owing to change of proprietors, have not been carried on in the same neat and sanitary condition which I have previously been able to report.

**The Emission of Dense Smoke** has caused complaints, and a series of observations has been made by the Inspector, with the result of effecting some amelioration for the time being. There is still, however, considerable room for improvement.

**Building Operations** have proceeded steadily. Sixty-five newly-built houses have become occupied during 1898.

I append Tables A, B, and C, as required by the Local Government Board and West Riding County Council, with the usual five Tables presented by myself and the Inspector's Report of Sanitary Work completed during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**J. LAWSON, M.B.,**

Medical Officer of Health.

P.S.—I regret this Report is presented so late in the month. It has been prepared since the first week in March. I could not, however, submit it to the Sanitary Committee until their meeting on the 22nd March.

**Inspector's Report of the Sanitary Work, &c.,  
completed during the Year 1898.**

No. of Complaints received during the year.....	32
No. of Inspections made.....	1270
Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses and Premises .....	30
Houses disinfected after Infectious Diseases.....	37
House Drains Repaired, Cleansed, &c. ....	52
Trapped or Disconnected.....	16
Privies or Water Closets Cleansed.....	18000
New Privies Provided.....	17
Privies Repaired .....	25
Houses supplied with Water .....	26
No. of Lodging-houses Registered under the 35th Clause of Sanitary Act, 1866 .....	5
Removal of Ashes and other Refuse—No. of Loads .....	2000
No. of Licensed Slaughter-houses Inspected.....	8
Other Proceedings, <i>e.g.</i> , Legal Proceedings .....	0

(Signed) **EMMETT SMITH,**

Nuisance Inspector.

**Table No. 1.—Showing Deaths from Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases for Ten Years.**

Year.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough	Fevers.	Diarrhoea, Dysentery, and Cholera.	Total.	Rate per 1000 per annum.
1889	0	7	1	1	3	1	1	14	2.2
1890	0	0	9	0	0	1	1	11	1.6
1891	0	3	1	0	7	0	1	12	1.8
1892	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4	0.5
1893	0	1	0	1	2	2	1	7	1.0
1894	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	6	0.8
1895	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0.2
1896	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	7	0.9
1897	0	6	0	2	2	0	1	11	1.3
1898	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	4	0.4

**Table No. 2.**—Showing Mortality from all Causes at subjoined Ages for Ten Years.

Year.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 60	60 and upwards	Total.
1889	27	14	4	5	29	28	107
1890	19	13	3	2	31	39	107
1891	26	13	4	11	41	31	126
1892	27	9	6	4	33	30	109
1893	22	9	0	4	17	32	84
1894	22	7	7	2	32	33	103
1895	16	13	4	8	29	35	105
1896	22	14	6	4	27	34	107
1897	18	11	4	3	25	37	98
1898	22	5	7	4	33	29	100

**Table No. 3.** — Showing Estimated Population, Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Number of Deaths under One Year, with Rate per 1000 Births for Ten Years.

Year.	Deaths under 1 year.		Births.	Deaths.	Birth- rate.	Death- rate.	Estimated Population
	No.	Rate per 1000 births					
1889	27	140·5	192	107	30·7	17·1	6250
1890	19	115·8	164	107	25·2	16·4	6500
1891	26	127·4	204	126	30·6	18·8	*6658
1892	27	158·8	170	109	25	16	6776
1893	22	118·9	185	84	26·4	12	7000
1894	22	134·1	164	103	22·7	14·3	7200
1895	16	94·1	170	105	22·8	14	7450
1896	22	141·0	156	107	20·2	13·8	7700
1897	18	113·2	159	98	19·8	12·2	8000
1898	22	118·2	186	100	22·2	11·9	8350

\* According to Census.



**Table No. 4.**—Showing Mortality from the Different Classes of Disease for Ten Years.

Causes.	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
Smallpox .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles .....	7	0	3	0	1	5	0	0	6	0
Scarlatina .....	1	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria.....	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1
Croup .....	0	0	0	4	2	0	1	2	0	0
Whooping Cough.....	3	0	7	2	2	0	0	4	2	0
Typhus Fever .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever .....	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3	0	2
Other Fevers.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	0
Cholera .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rheumatic Fever.....	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Erysipelas .....	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pyæmia .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Ague .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis .....	10	10	12	10	4	6	9	8	6	6
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy .....	15	19	44	18	16	17	23	27	22	26
Heart .....	7	9	5	10	4	4	2	8	8	8
Injuries .....	1	1	2	3	3	6	2	3	1	1
Other Diseases .....	58	56	51	60	48	64	65	52	48	53
Total.....	107	107	126	109	84	103	105	107	98	100

**Table No. 5.**—Showing the Births, Deaths from all Causes, and from certain Special Causes in each Quarter of 1898.

Quarter ending	Births.	Deaths from all Causes	DEATHS FROM			
			Seven Pr'nc'pal Zymotic Diseases.	Phthisis	Diseases of Lungs	Heart Disease.
March 31st	46	23	2	0	7	0
June 30th	45	30	0	2	11	5
September 30th	41	21	0	3	3	2
December 31st	54	26	2	1	5	1
Total.....	186	100	4	6	26	8

Table of Deaths during the Year 1898, with the Population and the Births during the Year.

Census, 1891.	Registered Births.	Deaths all ages.	Under 1 Year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards
6,658	186	100	22	5	7	4	37	25
Estimated Population to middle of 1898—8,350.								

Mortality from all Subjoined Causes.

Causes.	Under 5 Years of Age.	Above 5 Years of Age.
Smallpox .....	0	0
Scarlatina .....	0	0
Diphtheria.....	0	1
Membranous Croup.. ..	0	0
Typhus Fever .....	0	0
Enteric or Typhoid Fever.....	0	2
Other or Doubtful Fever .....	0	1
Puerperal Fever .....	0	0
Cholera .....	0	0
Erysipelas .....	0	1
Measles .. ..	0	0
Whooping Cough.....	0	0
Diarrhœa and Dysentery .....	0	0
Rheumatic Fever.....	0	1
Phthisis .....	0	6
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.....	10	16
Heart Disease .....	0	8
Influenza .....	0	5
Injuries .....	0	1
All other Diseases .....	17	31
Total .....	27	73

Table of Cases of Infectious Sickness during Year 1898.

Causes.	Under 5 Years of Age.	Above 5 Years of Age.
Smallpox .....	0	0
Scarlatina .....	6	18
Diphtheria.....	1	3
Membranous Croup.....	0	0
Typhus Fever .....	0	0
Enteric or Typhoid Fever.....	0	8
Other or Doubtful Fever ..	0	1
Puerperal Fever .....	0	0
Cholera .....	0	0
Erysipelas .....	0	7

Number of such Cases removed from their Homes for  
Treatment in Isolation Hospital.

Scarlatina..... 19.

Enteric Fever..... 6.

## TABLE C, 1898.

### HEBDEN BRIDGE URBAN COUNCIL SANITARY DISTRICT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—J. LAWSON, M.B.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—Mr. EMMETT SMITH.

#### WATER SUPPLY—

Quality—Good.

Action on Lead—Very slight.

Any extensions or change during 1898?—590 yards Prince Bridge  
to Crow Nest ; 214 yards Foster Holme to Hangingroyd ;  
62 yards Albert Street to Croft.

Any inadequacy in any part?—Some inadequacy during dry  
summers from private supplies.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

Extensions or Improvements during 1898 —New sewers in process

Any inadequacy in any part?—No.

## SCAVENGING—

Are the privy middens, &c., cleansed by Sanitary staff, by Contractors, or by Owners and Tenants?—By Sanitary Staff.

If scavenging undertaken by District Council, what was the annual cost during 1898?—£433.

## ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890—29th November, 1893

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890— „ „

What was the amount paid to practitioners under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act during 1898?—£5 10s.

## BY-LAWS—

Any adopted or sanctioned during 1898?—No.

Are they properly enforced?—

Any deficiency?—

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	Number Regis- tered.	In- spected.	General Condition?	Legal Proceedings (if any).
Common Lodging Houses...	5	5	...	...
Canal Boats ... ..		96	...	...
Slaughter Houses ... ..	8	8	...	...
Bakehouses ... ..			...	...
Dairies	9	9	...	None
Cowsheds } ... ..				
Milkshops }				
Offensive Trades .. ..	1	1	Tripe dressing ...	

## ISOLATION HOSPITAL—Fielden Hospital, Lee Bottom.

Disinfecting Apparatus—None.

Compensation paid for infected articles destroyed during 1898—19/6

## DWELLINGS—

Number of Houses built and occupied during 1898—65.

General character—Mostly cottage, some villas.

Any houses unfit for habitation?—No.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses?—No.

Any overcrowding of houses *on area*?—No.

Any action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890?—No.

## METEOROLOGY—

Mean Temperature for year 1898—47·68.

Rainfall—42·68.

## GEOLOGY —

Nature of Soil—Clay loam.

Subsoil—Clay.



## MISCELLANEOUS—

Is House-to-house Inspection systematically made?—Yes, it has been.

Total Number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1897—None.

At close of 1898—Three.

Reported during 1898—93.

Abated during 1898—90.

Total number of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings—None.

Number of Sink wastes disconnected during 1898—16.

„ „ trapped „ 16.

Number of Closets constructed during 1898—17.

Kinds—Water Closets.

Any diseases peculiarly endemic in the district?—No.

Any information as to number of deaths from cancer of all kinds during 1898?—Eight deaths.

Any information as to number of deaths from Tabes Mesenterica? One death.

Vaccination : General efficiency—Almost disregarded.

What action has been taken in regard to the following matters :

Seizure of Unsound Food—None.

Prosecutions—None.

Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts—None.

Prosecutions—None.

River Pollution—

Smoke Abatement—Notices served to abate.

Number of observations taken—36.

Inspection of Factories and Workshops—None.

Schools—Number in District—3. Number closed on account of outbreaks of disease—None.

Burial Grounds—Number in District—3. Any need for Extension—Yes.

BIRTHS—Males 88, Females 98 ; Total, 186.

Number illegitimate, included in the above—8.

Any information as to Still Births—No.

DEATHS—Males 48, Females 52 ; Total, 100.

Number uncertified, included in the above—1.

Rateable Value as stated in Valuation List—£31,277 10s.

Value upon which the General District Rate is Assessed—

Full Rateable Value (Houses, &c.)—£26,920 5s.

One-fourth Rateable Value (Land, &c.)—£1,089 6s. 3d.

Rate in the £, 1898—2/2.

# Nuisance Inspector's Report.



MARCH 17th, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my Report for the Year 1898, being my **Eighteenth Annual One**, on the Sanitary Work of the Council's district.

I continue to meet with an increased willingness on the part of property-owners to remedy sanitary defects without the necessity of publicly reporting them, which will account for the small proportion of cases brought under your notice in my monthly reports, as I have hitherto refrained from taking this course until I have been satisfied that the objects sought could not be otherwise attained.

**The Number of Houses** at the close of the year was 1,847, of which 1,094 are supplied with water from the public mains. The remaining 753 are dependent on private supplies for all purposes, the tenants in many cases having to carry the water considerable distances in a dry season ; but 486 out of the 753 have the water piped on to the premises in the same way as those who draw their supplies from the mains, and in a large majority of cases the supply appears to be constant, but of course there are a few notable exceptions, which have already been brought to the notice of the Council in my monthly reports, and in my special report on the private water supplies of the district

**House Drainage**, as usual, has formed an important item in the year's work, requiring about 250 special inspections and consultations in order to see that the Council's regulations were duly observed. In addition to the drains laid for new property, those of 52 old houses have either been repaired or relaid, and in 17 cases entirely replaced by new ones.

All the **closets** provided during the year are on the water carriage system ; 17 of these were for new houses, 9 for old ones, and 14 for other premises, making a total of 1,127 closets for dwelling-houses.

**The Scavenging** of the district has been carried on as usual by the Council's staff in as satisfactory a manner as such work can well be done, for it has included the emptying and disposal of the contents of 18,000 closet pails, as well as the removal of over 2,000 loads of ashes, street sweepings, and other refuse.

Of the **Infectious Cases** notified to the Medical Officer of Health, 25 were removed to the Hospital at Lee Bottom. I have also disinfected thirty-seven houses and burnt two sets of bedding as a precaution against the spread of the several infectious diseases.

Amongst other duties claiming my attention have been the inspection of common lodging-houses, slaughter-houses, dairies and cowsheds, and the taking of smoke observations.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

**E. SMITH,**

Nuisance Inspector.

# Canal Boat Report.



14th JANUARY, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my report for the year 1898 as Inspector under the Canal Boats Acts for the combined Authorities of the Hebden Bridge Urban and the Todmorden Rural Councils. The number of boats inspected during the period named was 96, having registered sleeping accommodation in the cabins for a total of 504 persons ; but the number of persons occupying the cabins was only 240, viz., 211 men, 20 women, and 9 children, which is the smallest proportion of women and children for any of the thirteen years during which I have been Inspector under the Acts

The contraventions of the Acts or Regulations, though eight in number, were not of a serious character. In four cases the Captain had not the necessary Certificate of Registration, but in each case the boats had either recently changed ownership and the Certificate been left with the Registration Authorities for alteration, or the boats had been laid up for repairs, in which case it is customary to remove the Certificate along with other things from the cabins. The cabins of three others had not been painted within the three years required by Regulation 9 ; and another had some structural defects in one of the cabins, which the owners promised to remedy, on their attention being called to the matter.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

E. SMITH,

Inspector.